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PLAN ENLARGED DESPITE POOR FULFILLMENT;
SEES GREAT ECONOMIC PROGRESS IN 1953

SCORES INADEQUATE FULFILLMENT -- Otechestven Front, No 1705, 9 Mar 50

In a speech before the Council of Ministers on 11 February 1950 Prime Minister Vulko Chervenkov strongly emphasized the urgent need to increase the production of every branch of the national economy. His remarks follow:

Under the 1950 plan, industrial production must exceed that of 1949 by 16.3 percent and thereby exceed the volume provided for this period by the Five-Year Plan by 14.8 percent. Power production must exceed that of 1949 by 14 percent, by increasing the output of existing power stations and putting new projects into operation. The machine-building industry must be increased by 39.5 percent, rubber and shoe production by 42.3 cotton textiles by 28.8, and woolen textiles by 30.4 percent. Coal production will be increased by only 7 percent because of the Ministry of Mines' poor preparatory work during 1948 and 1949, which is now dooming to failure any substantial progress in the coal-mining industry.

The production of ores and concentrates must be particularly stressed.

The possibility of realizing the increases depends upon better organization, better leadership, the elimination of all vestiges of criminal disruption, etc.

Agriculture must exceed the 1949 production by 40.5 percent. This advance hinges on the accurate fulfillment of the rules laid down at the January Plenary Session of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party, and is based on the favorable conditions prevailing during the 1949 fall sowing campaign and during the winter seasons of 1949 and 1950, as well as on the fact that sowing was substantially expanded because of the 55,000 tons of seed distributed by the government. It is expected that spring sowing operations will be prompt and correct.

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Work productivity must be increased by 12.4 percent. Manufactured goods must be promptly circulated on the market and not retained for the particular use of some ministries and departments. The turnover must be substantially increased, markets expanded, and the value of the leva strengthened and consolidated. The expanded production of industrial goods, agricultural commodities, and raw materials will be a step in this direction.

The total goods turnover must be increased by 23.3 percent, and the sales of some essential commodities must be increased as follows: vegetable oil 28.9 percent, cheese and kashkaval 84 percent, sausage and other meat products three times, meat 17.5 percent, cotton textiles over 30 percent, woolen fabrics over 48 percent, and shoes over 66 percent. The sale of other consumers' goods must be increased in the same proportion.

Any who attempt to reduce or delay the fulfillment of the 1950 plan will be severely prosecuted. Thus, for example, the representatives of the Tobacco Monopoly at the Ministry of Foreign Trade are striving to reduce the tobacco-processing plan of the Council of Ministers by 5,000 tons, claiming that according to the experience of previous years such a large volume of tobacco could not be processed because of the shortage of space and manpower. However, the Council of Ministers rejected the objections, which, if accepted, would have increased the tobacco surplus within the country by 5,000 tons and reduced exports in the same measure, thereby interfering with the import of metals, cotton, and other essential materials.

The same tendency is apparent in some other industries. The Central Leather Administration insisted that the 1950 plan for the delivery of leather for state purchase be lower than the effective deliveries made in 1949. These industrial leaders suggested a reduction in sheepskin deliveries by 11 percent and cattle hides by 53 percent.

Prime Minister Chervenkov emphatically stated that he will personally prevent the Ministry of Foreign Trade, the leaders of the tobacco industry, and the Central Leather Administration from introducing any reductions in plan quotas and will see that the picking, shipping, processing, and exporting of tobacco be scrupulously executed; the same vigilance will be applied to the delivery and processing of leather for domestic and foreign consumption.

Stoychev, leader of the Pamuchni Tukani (Cotton Textiles) Association within the Ministry of Industry, well aware of the fact that 1950 cotton production was to be increased by 19 million meters, provided cotton enterprises with a reduced production plan for January, corresponding to the production of December 1949. However, not even the latter figure has been reached in January although Stoychev had at his disposal a sufficient quantity of domestic and Soviet cotton.

Henceforth, the government will see that its members and the leaders of industry be responsible for unconditional plan fulfillment right from the beginning of the year and keep work at an even and steady pace all year by setting quarterly, monthly, and weekly production schedules. Sluggish work during the opening months of the campaign produces a rush toward the end, resulting in chaos.

Another problem is the poor quality and scanty assortment of consumers' goods. Despite the fact that production enterprises were provided with large quantities of raw materials, they have produced only a few stereotyped articles of scandalously low quality. This criticism especially applies to the textile, sugar product, cosmetic, and rubber industries. Cotton yarns were manufactured chiefly in low sizes and produce coarse and heavy fabrics. Inadequate exploitation of raw material must account for the loss of at least one million meters of cloth. The size of yarn must be increased from number 18.6 to 23.8.

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The problem of yield is likewise regarded with the utmost indifference. The 1948 yield of sugar from sugar beets reached 14.22 percent, whereas the 1949 yield reached only 13.9; similar losses have been noticed in vegetable oil, flax, and hemp production. The recent reforms introduced in the Ministry of Agriculture ought to enable this department to handle its assignments with greater efficiency.

Party organizations and people's soviets throughout the country have not taken the lead in agricultural campaigns, and have not been strict in controlling plan fulfillment and quota deliveries, or in supervising the work of cooperatives, state farms, and machine-tractor stations.

Circulating funds, raw materials, and finished products must be used strictly according to established norms; materials and products must be kept for indefinite purposes. The prevailing practices are still far removed from these goals. Thus, for example, the Ministry of Industry has unlawfully invested one billion leva in capital construction regardless of the plan, and the Ministry of Electrification and Reclamation in 1949 exceeded its investment plan by 2,500,000,000 leva, an amount sufficient to build another power station of the "Maritsa 3" type. The communal "Sofstroy" enterprise in Sofia has spent 400,000 leva for the purchase of Persian rugs to decorate its offices, and similar extravagance has been frequent in other institutions. Administrations must henceforth be held strictly responsible for an accurate account of expenditures, and one man must be held responsible for management.

The wage system must be based on the distinction between skilled and unskilled labor, heavy and light work, and the improvement of living conditions. Furthermore, it must reflect the quantity and quality of work, and premium wages must be paid to engineering and technical personnel.

Capital construction has also been subject to many errors. As many as 11,500 projects have been in progress at the same time, instead of concentrating on a few which can be promptly put into operation. The construction of projects not covered by the plan will henceforth be considered improper. Banks will release funds and credits strictly according to plan fulfillment and not the reverse, i.e., plans shall not be made according to the release of funds.

Financial organizations have also been operating most inefficiently. In many areas tax collection is far behind schedule; in Asenovgrad Okoliya, tax arrears amount to 111 million leva, in Plovdiv Okoliya to 412 million, in Plovdiv City to 193 million, in Provadiya Okoliya to 130 million and in Balchik Okoliya to 175 million leva.

The free sale of agricultural commodities has likewise been lagging in many okoliya. Vidin Okoliya is still behind the plan with 1,122 tons of wheat and 3,329 tons of corn, Mikhailovgrad Okoliya with 1,852 tons of wheat and 1,260 tons of corn, Kula Okoliya with 1,444 tons of wheat and 1,222 of corn, Vratsa Okoliya with 2,050 tons of wheat and 2,149 of corn, Byala Slatina Okoliya with 2,166 of wheat and 567 of corn, and Oryakhovo Okoliya with 1,311 tons of wheat and 64 tons of corn. These shortcomings are due to poor discipline and insufficient attention of local authorities to accurate plan fulfillment. In the future, every district, okoliya, city, village, or enterprise must be duly informed of plan requirements, indoctrinated, and fully mobilized for unconditional fulfillment.

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TO EXPAND METALLURGICAL INDUSTRY -- Die Wirtschaft, No 16, 20 Apr 50

According to the provisions of the Five-Year Plan, industrial production in 1953 will exceed that of 1948 by 120 percent and thereby surpass that of 1939 by 278 percent. In proportion to 1948, the metallurgical industry will be increased by 2,100 percent (of which 1,300 percent accounts for cast iron), machine-building by 580, the power industry by 450, metalworking by 156, and coal mining by 69 percent. The number of tractors will be increased from 4,900 in 1948 to 10,000 in 1953.

Light industry will be increased by 165 percent, and within it the textile industry will account for 230 percent, chemical industry 390, leather industry 200, glass 980, food processing 280, tobacco processing 140, and the lumber industry 230 percent.

The high percentages shown in the increase of heavy industry reflect the fact that this branch has been very poorly developed heretofore, but the figures are very high in proportion to the population. Coal production in 1953 will reach 6,550,000 tons, the production of metalworking machines 6,250 each, agricultural machines and implements 90,000 each, cast-iron production 20,000 tons, steel 10,000 tons, and lead 13,300 tons. Power plants will provide 1.8 billion kilowatt-hours in 1953, the textile industry 90 million meters of cotton cloth and 7.6 million of woolen fabrics.

Agricultural production in 1953 will exceed that of 1939 by 59 percent. The cultivated area will be increased by 56 percent, and livestock breeding by 61 percent. The drainage and reclamation of valley clearings will add 16,500 hectares of arable land. The number of agricultural cooperatives will be increased to 4,000, bringing the area under cooperative management to 60 percent of the total area.

Living conditions will be improved by 60 percent in comparison to the prewar level. The number of industrial workers will increase by 23 percent, and wages by 64 percent. The number of college students will increase by 123 percent.

Even at present industrial production exceeds the prewar level by 100 percent.

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